



UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

12953 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper, UT 84020

P: (801) 432-4407 – F: (801) 432-4677 – www.ut.ngb.army.mil

Twitter: @UTNationalGuard – Facebook.com/utahnationalguard

Press Release 13-016, 9 April 2013

Contact: Lt. Col. Hank McIntire, (801) 420-4778

For Immediate Release

Utah Guard Soldier Takes Top Honors at Regional Best Warrior Event

DRAPER, Utah – Sgt. Conlee Luke, a Cedar City, Utah, resident and member of the Utah Army Guard's 116th Engineer Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, took top honors in the Noncommissioned Officer category at the Region VII Best Warrior Competition April 5-7 in Fort Carson, Colo.

The intense, three-day, regional competition featured Soldiers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Each state or territory sent its very best representatives to compete in two categories: Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer.

Along with his peers, Luke completed a number of tests to include obstacle course, physical fitness, road march with 85 lbs. of gear and equipment, weapons expertise and shooting accuracy, land navigation, tactical communication, a graded media interview, written examination, review board in front of four sergeants major and a mystery event that involved problem solving, outdoor survival and a helicopter rescue.

Luke achieved the highest score in four of the events: obstacle course, road march, weapons accuracy and written examination. With his first-place overall finish, he will advance to the Army National Guard Best Warrior event and compete with other regional winners in his category.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Utah Army Guard, was present at the competition and was very impressed with Luke and Christiansen.

"These Soldiers trained hard for the past month to get ready," he said. "Their character and commitment were above reproach as they competed. They never quit and gave it their all, no matter what the task."

Sgt. John Christiansen, of Centerfield, Utah, a member of Bravo Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery, represented the Utah Guard in the Soldier category, making a strong showing overall and achieving the highest score in the mystery event.